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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS \$30,000 CHECK TO VERNON COUNTY COMMISSION

USDA Rural Development represented by Ed Mason, USDA Community Development Manager for Vernon, Bates and Cass Counties, presented a \$30,000 mock check to the Vernon County Commission on November 16, 2004. The ceremony was held in the remodeled 4th floor area of the Vernon County Courthouse. The funds assisted with providing needed space for general offices and court administrative offices in this historic building.

"The agency is proud to be a partner in providing financial assistance to Vernon County for the renovation of this historic courthouse," said Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for Rural Development. "It is rewarding to see the economic investment made in the heart of downtown Nevada, the county seat for Vernon County. Financing essential community facilities is consistent with USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's commitment to the future of rural communities."

Mason pointed out that the USDA grant was in conjunction with Moss Charitable Trust plus revenues from the county provided for this improvement.

Branum added, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative "Ike" Skelton for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project for residents in Vernon County."

Anyone interest in obtaining information regarding Community Facility assistance or other programs available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or you can contact Ed, Mason, Community Development Manager, at the Butler Local of USDA Rural Development at 625 West Nursery, Box A, Butler, MO 64730 or by calling 660-679-6114 (extension 4).



Pictured from left to right for the Mock check presentation: Robert Hagedorn, Chief of Staff for Congressman Ike Skelton; Phil Couch, Treasurer/Ex-Officio Collector of Vernon County; Carol Platt, Community Development Specialist USDA Rural Development; Patrick Morrow, Field Representative for Senator Kit Bond; David Darnold Presiding Commissioner Vernon County; Bonnie McCord Southern Commissioner Vernon County; Terry Campbell, District Director for Senator Jim Talent; Judge James Bickel of the 28th Judicial Circuit; David Heumander, Court Administrator of the 28th Judicial Circuit; Ed Mason, Community Development Manager USDA Rural Development.

"Committed to the future of rural communities."

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